18. (new) A method of treating dementia comprising administering to a human subject in need thereof an effective amount of an interferon antagonist.

19. (new) A method of treating dementia comprising administering to a human subject in need thereof an amount of an interferon antagonist that is effective in reducing the level of bioavailable interferon in a blood sample from the subject to at most one third of a normal level of bioavailable interferon in a human blood sample.

20. (new) A method of treating Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to a human subject in need thereof an effective amount of an interferon antagonist.

21. (new) A method of treating Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to a human subject in need thereof an amount of an interferon antagonist that is effective in reducing the level of bioavailable interferon in a blood sample from the subject to at most one third of a normal level of bioavailable interferon in a human blood sample.

22. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the dementia is a type of dementia that is associated with an accumulation of amyloid in the central nervous system of the subject.

23. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the dementia is a type of dementia that is associated with an accumulation of amyloid in the central nervous system of the subject.

24. (new) The method of Claim 19, wherein the interferon antagonist is a soluble interferon receptor, an interferon receptor fragment, or a peptide having an amino acid sequence that is derived from an interferon that occupies the receptor binding site but does not activate the receptor.

25. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein the interferon antagonist is a soluble interferon receptor, an interferon receptor fragment, or a peptide having an amino acid

sequence that is derived from an interferon that occupies the receptor binding site but does not activate the receptor.

26. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the interferon antagonist is an antibody.

27. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the interferon antagonist is an antibody.

28. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the interferon antagonist is a protein comprising an interferon-binding portion of an interferon receptor.

29. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the interferon antagonist is a protein comprising an interferon-binding portion of an interferon receptor.

30. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the antagonist blocks production of interferon.

31. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the antagonist blocks production of interferon.

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32. (new) The method of Claim 26, wherein the amount of antibody administered is between 1 and 100 mg/kg.

33. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein the amount of antibody administered is between 1 and 100 mg/kg.

34. (new) The method of Claim 26, wherein the antibody is administered intramuscularly, subcutaneously or intravenously.

35. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein the antibody is administered intramuscularly, subcutaneously or intravenously.